

OBSERVATIONS ON BIRDS ON MUNDANTHURAI PLATEAU, TAMIL NADU¹

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(With a text-figure)

One hundred and fifty nine bird species, representing 93 genera and 40 families, were identified on Mundanthurai Plateau from January to December, 1984. Of these, 77 were classified as residents, 41 as winter visitors, 30 as altitudinal migrants and two as summer visitors. The status of nine species could not be ascertained. Mundanthurai Plateau has five species of kingfishers, including the Blackcapped (*Halcyon pileata*). However, only two species of woodpeckers (*Dinopium benghalense* and *D. javanense*) were seen. There was one observation of a Grey junglefowl (*Gallus sonneratii*) hen nesting on a tree with five eggs and many on the interactions between primates and birds.

INTRODUCTION

One of the major benefits of bird community studies in forested habitat and estimation of abundance of bird species is that the studies, when repeated after several years, could help in assessing the status of bird species themselves and their habitat. Published reports on such time-span observations are rare in India, and the only paper we have seen is by Ripley (1978) who had an impression of relative 'scarcity' when he visited the Simlipal hill in Orissa after a span of 28 years.

In recent years, however, there are quite a few bird community studies (Gaston 1978, Johnsingh *et al.* 1987, Khan 1978, Price 1979) which give us some baseline data on birds for certain habitats of the country which can be used for future comparisons. The paper presented here, based on our field studies on Mundanthurai Plateau, adds a little more information. It also shows how simple natural history observations still could collect interesting in-

formation on birds as exemplified by our observations on the nesting behaviour of a female grey junglefowl and interactions between birds and primates.

STUDY AREA

Mundanthurai Plateau (c. 60 km²) situated in Mundanthurai Wildlife Sanctuary (572 km², 8° 40' N, 77° 20' E) in Tamil Nadu is 180-200 metres above MSL. The Plateau receives both the Southwest (June-August) and the Northeast (October-December) monsoon. Ten years of rainfall data (1974-84) give an average of 1708 mm for upper Papanasam reservoir station and 1189 mm for the lower Papanasam reservoir station, both of which are situated on the plateau.

Two distinct vegetation types, riverine forests along the perennial Tambiraparani and Servalar rivers, and dry deciduous forests in other parts, occur on the Plateau. Trees of the riverine forest are dominated by Dipterocarpaceae and dry deciduous forest by Leguminosae. The riverine forests of the plateau which now average around 20 metres in width were once continuous with the evergreen forests of the higher

¹ Accepted August 1986.

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altitudes of the catchment area. This continuity was broken by the construction of the upper Papanasam reservoir (1938-43) across the river Tambiraparani and by the servalar reservoir across Servalar River 1974-1987). Both the rivers merge near Mundanthurai forest rest house and flow as Tambiraparani River for a kilometre before emptying into lower Papanasam reservoir which lies within the intensive study area of 20 km². (Fig. 1).

In most areas, regeneration of the natural vegetation is successful but in Deer Valley (c. 1.25 km²) which has been subjected to intense cattle grazing and fires, the secondary thicket vegetation is mostly of *Dichrostachys cinerea*, *Helicteres isora* and *Cymbopogon citratus*. As a result of these habitat modifications the Plateau has a mosaic of habitat which includes areas with sparse vegetation, areas with dense secondary vegetation, plantations, dry deciduous forests, riverine forests and a reservoir. The diversity of habitat attracts a large variety of birds.

METHODS

The study was conducted from January to December, 1984 and data on birds were collected by two methods. First, when a bird was seen or heard anywhere in the study area, at any time, it was noted down. This gave us presence or absence data for the study period. Second, all birds seen along three selected one kilometre transects — one in the Deer valley, one along the west bank of the river Tambiraparani, and one through the dry deciduous forests on the southern side of river Tambiraparani, were recorded. The river transect was walked 24 times, all in the mornings, eight times each during March-April, July-August, and November-December. The other transects were walked 15 times, all in the mornings, five times each during March-April, July-August, and November-December. This transect study gave us presence or absence data as well as quantitative information on the abundance of birds which will be published elsewhere (Johnsingh & Joshua, in prep.). In the following account, birds are classified as rare, frequently seen and common, based on the number of sightings and abundance.

OBSERVATIONS

A total of 159 birds, representing 93 genera

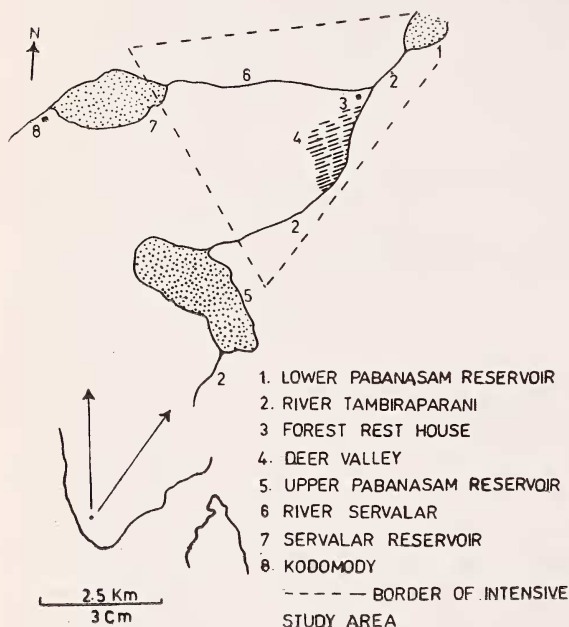


Fig. 1. Diagrammatic sketch of the study area and adjacent places of Mundanthurai Plateau, Tamil Nadu.

In the 1960's some areas of the dry deciduous forests were cleared and planted with sandal (*Santalum album*), teak (*Tectona grandis*), *Eucalyptus* and soft wood species such as *Ailanthus excelsa* and *Ceiba pentandra*. These plantations, except teak and *Eucalyptus*, failed as a result of browsing by sambar (*Cervus unicolor*), the common cervid of the Plateau.

and 40 families, were recorded. Of these 77 were residents, 41 winter visitors, 30 altitudinal migrants and two summer visitors. We could not ascertain the migratory status of nine species (Table 1). More bird species visited the plateau from October to February ($\bar{x}=119$) than during March to July ($\bar{x}=83$). This difference was significant ($t=4.9$, $p<0.01$).

Rarity of certain bird species on the Plateau is due to their naturally low population in nature (e.g., King and Egyptian vulture), requirement of a specialised habitat which is rare in the study area (e.g., reed patches for Black Bittern), paucity of birds themselves in the study area (e.g., Grey Partridge), or migratory nature (e.g., Redwinged Cuckoo, Indian Pitta). Birds frequently seen, but which did not occur in large number, include species such as Greyheaded Fishing Eagle, Crested-hawk Eagle and Crow-pheasant. These, being predatory and territorial, can only occur widely spaced and in few numbers. Birds coming under the category of 'common' include largely frugivorous birds (e.g., Roseringed Parakeet, Koel), omnivorous birds (e.g., Myna, Bulbuls), granivorous birds (e.g., doves) and small insectivorous birds (e.g., House Swift, Green Bee-eater, Chloropsis), many individuals of which can be supported by a forest ecosystem.

The avifauna of the plateau is interesting in several respects. Five species of kingfishers including the Blackcapped, which is, however, rare on the Plateau, are seen usually in the months of January and February. Blackcapped kingfisher frequents mangrove swamps, tidal creeks and the seashore and is occasionally met with on rivers considerably inland from the sea, e.g., Parambikulam River near Kuriar Kutty from altitudes of 500 m down to the mean sea level (Ali 1969). Blackcapped kingfisher seems to be rare in other forest areas in south India. For instance, Ajay Desai (pers. comm.)

has not seen it in Mudumalai-Bandipur-Nagra-hole sanctuary complex, although the other four species of kingfishers seen on Mundanthurai Plateau are common. In Periyar Tiger Reserve, five species of kingfishers are seen but not the Blackcapped (Nair *et al.* 1985). It would be worth investigating the ecological reasons which attract the Blackcapped kingfisher to Mundanthurai from September to March.

Twelve species of woodpeckers occur in Kerala (Ali 1969). In Parambikulam, eight species have been recorded (Vijayan 1978), in Periyar nine species (Nair *et al.* 1985) and seven species in a study area of sholas, tea, *Eucalyptus* and Acacias in Nilgiris (Khan 1978). Only two species of woodpecker (Lesser Goldenbacked and Threetoed Goldenbacked) were seen on Mundanthurai Plateau. We attribute the paucity of woodpecker species on the Plateau to the small size of the study area (20 km²) and the restriction of large boled trees mostly to the thin belt of riverine forests. Dry deciduous forests in the study area, both natural as well as with secondary vegetation, typically have trees with slender boles. Large scale collection of dead wood by the fire wood cutters which are necessary as nesting sites may also be another factor limiting the number of woodpecker species.

It is interesting to note that some species that are rare or absent on the plateau are common in the adjoining semievergreen and evergreen forests of the upper slopes (>500 m). Species such as Malabar Trogon (*Harporhynchus fasciatus*), Blackheaded Oriole (*Oriolus xanthornus*), Whitebellied Tree Pie (*Dendrocitta leucogastra*) and Slatyheaded Scimitar Babbler (*Pomatorhinus horsfieldii*) were seen beyond upper Papanasam reservoir and Kodomdy but not on the Plateau. Both the hornbills (Malabar Grey Hornbill and Great Pied Hornbill) were more frequently seen in the

TABLE 1

BIRDS SEEN ON MUNDANTHURAI PLATEAU FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1984

Family and scientific name	Common English name	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Abundance rating	Migratory status
PHALACROCORACIDAE															
<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Cormorant	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	Am
<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	Darter	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am
ARDEIDAE															
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	1	WV
<i>Ardeola striatus</i>	Little Green Heron	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Pond Heron or Paddybird	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	2	WV
<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Smaller Egret	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	1	WV
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Night Heron	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	1	WV
<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Black Bittern	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	WV
CICONIIDAE															
<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Painted Stork	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
ACCIPITRIDAE															
<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Blackwinged kite	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Milvus migrans govinia</i>	Pariah Kite	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	2	Am
<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Brahminy Kite	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	1	R
<i>Accipiter nisus nisomilis</i>	Sparrow-Hawk	+	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Longlegged Buzzard	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	1	Am
<i>Buteo buteo japonicus</i>	Japanese Buzzard	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	Am
<i>Spizaetus cirrhatius</i>	Crested Hawk-Eagle	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	R
<i>Hieraetus pennatus</i>	Booted Hawk-Eagle	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Aquila rapax vindhiana</i>	Tawny Eagle	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Black Eagle	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaeus</i>	Greyheaded Fishing Eagle	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	A
<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Black or King Vulture	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am

BIRDS ON MUNDANTHURAI PLATEAU, TAMIL NADU

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Abundance rating	Migratory status
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian or Scavenger Vulture	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	Am
<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Crested serpent Eagle	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
FALCONIDAE															
<i>Falco biarmicus jugger</i>	Laggar Falcon	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	1	R
PHASIANIDAE															
<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	Grey Partridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	1	R
<i>Galliperdix spadicea</i>	Red Spurfowl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Galliperdix lunulata</i>	Painted Spurfowl	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	R
PHASIANIDAE															
<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	Grey or Sonnerat's Junglefowl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
TURNICIDAE															
<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	Little Bustard	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	Common Bustard	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	1	R
QUAIL															
<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	Quail	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	1	R
RALLIDAE															
<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Whitebreasted Waterhen	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	WV
CHARADRIIDAE															
<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Redwattled Lapwing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	Yellowwattled Lapwing	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	1	SV
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	WV
<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Pintail Snipe	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	WV
COLUMBIDAE															
<i>Treron pompadora</i>	Pompadour or Greyfronted Green Pigeon	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am

BIRDS SEEN ON MUNDANTHURAI PLATEAU FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER, 1984

Family and scientific name	Common English name	Months during which birds were seen												Abundance rating	Migratory status
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
PHALACRORORACIDAE															
<i>Phalacrocorax niger</i>	Cormorant	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	Am
<i>Anhinga rufa</i>	Darter	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am
ARDEIDAE															
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	1	WV
<i>Ardeola striatus</i>	Little Green Heron	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Ardeola grayii</i>	Pond Heron or Paddybird	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	2	WV
<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Smaller Egret	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Little Egret	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Night Heron	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Ixobrychus flavicollis</i>	Black Bittern	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	WV
CICONIIDAE															
<i>Mycteria leucocephala</i>	Painted Stork	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Ciconia ciconia</i>	White Stork	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
ACCIPITRIDAE															
<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Blackwinged kite	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Milvus migrans goviada</i>	Pariah Kite	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	Am
<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Brahminy Kite	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Accipiter badius</i>	Shikra	-	-	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	+	-	-	1	R
<i>Accipiter nisus nisosimilis</i>	Sparrow-Hawk	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Buteo rufinus</i>	Longlegged Buzzard	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	Am
<i>Buteo buteo japonicus</i>	Japanese Buzzard	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	Am
<i>Spizactes cirrhatus cirrhatus</i>	Crested Hawk-Eagle	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	R
<i>Hieraaetus pennatus</i>	Booted Hawk-Eagle	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Aquila rapax vindhiana</i>	Tawny Eagle	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Black Eagle	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	Greyheaded Fishing Eagle	+	+	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	A
<i>Sarcogyps calvus</i>	Black or King Vulture	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	Months during which birds were seen												Abundance rating	Migratory status
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
<i>Neophron percnopterus</i>	Egyptian or Scavenger Vulture	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	Am
<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Crested serpent Eagle	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Osprey	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
FALCONIDAE															
<i>Falco biarmicus jugger</i>	Laggar Falcon	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	R
PHASIANIDAE															
<i>Francolinus pondicerianus</i>	Grey Partridge	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	1	R
<i>Galloperdix spadicea</i>	Red Spurfowl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Galloperdix lunulata</i>	Painted Spurfowl	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	R
PHASIANIDAE															
<i>Gallus sonneratii</i>	Grey or Sonnerat's Junglefowl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
TURNICIDAE															
<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	Little Bustard Quail	-	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
<i>Turnix suscitator</i>	Common Bustard Quail	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	1	R
RALLIDAE															
<i>Amiaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Whitebreasted Waterhen	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	WV
CHARADRIIDAE															
<i>Vanellus indicus</i>	Redwattled Lapwing	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Vanellus malabaricus</i>	Yellowwattled Lapwing	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	-	-	1	SV
<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Little Ringed Plover	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Tringa hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	WV
<i>Gallinago stenura</i>	Pintail Snipe	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	WV
COLUMBIDAE															
<i>Treron pompadora</i>	Pompadour or Greyfronted Green Pigeon	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	J	F	M	A	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Abundance rating	Migratory status
<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	Yellowlegged Green Pigeon	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Columba livia</i>	Blue Rock Pigeon	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Indian Ringed Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Little Brown or Senegal Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Emerald or Bronze-winged Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
PSITTACIDAE																	
<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Roseringed Parakeet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Blossomheaded Parakeet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am
<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	Indian Lorikeet	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	WV
CUCULIDAE																	
<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	Redwinged Crested Cuckoo	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	1	WV
<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	Pied Crested Cuckoo	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	1	WV
<i>Cuculus sparvertioides</i>	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Cuculus varius</i>	Common Hawk-Cuckoo or Brain-fever Bird	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	Indian Cuckoo	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	Indian Plaintive Cuckoo	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Koel	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>	Small Green-billed Malkoha	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>	Sirkeer Cuckoo	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	1	UK
<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Crow-Pheasant or Coucal	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
STRIGIDAE																	
<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	Collared Scops Owl	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R

BIRDS ON MUNDANTHURAI PLATEAU, TAMIL NADU

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Abundance rating	Migratory status
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eagle-Owl or Great Horned Owl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Bubo zeylonensis</i>	Brown Fish Owl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Brown Hawk Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
<i>Athene brama</i>	Spotted Owlet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	Jungle Owlet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
CAPRIMULGIDAE															
<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Longtailed Nightjar	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	Common Indian Nightjar	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
APODIDAE															
<i>Apus melba</i>	Alpine Swift	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	Am
<i>Apus affinis</i>	House Swift	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Palm Swift	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	1	R
ALCEDINIDAE															
<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Storkbilled Kingfisher	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Whitebreasted Kingfisher	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	Blackcapped Kingfisher	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	1	WV
MEROPIDAE															
<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	Chestnutheaded Bee-Eater	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Green Bee-Eater	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
CORACIIDAE															
<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Indian Roller	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
UPUPIDAE															
<i>Upupa epops</i>	Hoopoe	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	1	SV
BUCEROTIDAE															
<i>Tockus griseus</i>	Malabar Grey Hornbill	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am
<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Great Pied Hornbill	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	Months during which birds were seen												Abundance rating	Migratory status
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
<i>Treron phoenicoptera</i>	Yellowlegged Green Pigeon	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Columba livia</i>	Blue Rock Pigeon	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Indian Ringed Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Spotted Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Little Brown or Senegal Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Emerald or Bronze-winged Dove	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
PSITTACIDAE															
<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Roseringed Parakeet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Blossomheaded Parakeet	+	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am
<i>Loriculus vernalis</i>	Indian Lorieet	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	WV
CUCULIDAE															
<i>Clamator coromandus</i>	Redwinged Crested Cuckoo	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	1	WV
<i>Clamator jacobinus</i>	Pied Crested Cuckoo	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	1	WV
<i>Cuculus sparverioides</i>	Large Hawk-Cuckoo	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Cuculus varius</i>	Common Hawk-Cuckoo or Brain-fever Bird	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	Indian Cuckoo	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Cacomantis passerinus</i>	Indian Plaintive Cuckoo	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	WV
<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Koel	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Rhopodytes viridirostris</i>	Small Green-billed Malkoha	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Taccocua leschenaultii</i>	Sirkeer Cuckoo	+	-	-	+	+	+	-	+	-	+	-	-	1	UK
<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Crow-Pheasant or Coucal	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
STRIGIDAE															
<i>Otus bakkamoena</i>	Collared Scops Owl	+	+	-	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	1	R

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	Months during which birds were seen												Abundance rating	Migratory status
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D		
<i>Bubo bubo</i>	Eagle-Owl or Great Horned Owl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Bubo zeylonensis</i>	Brown Fish Owl	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Brown Hawk Owl	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	UK
<i>Athene brama</i>	Spotted Owlet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Glaucidium radiatum</i>	Jungle Owlet	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
CAPRIMULGIDAE															
<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Longtailed Nightjar	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Caprimulgus asiaticus</i>	Common Indian Nightjar	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
APODIDAE															
<i>Apus melba</i>	Alpine Swift	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	Am
<i>Apus affinis</i>	House Swift	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Cypsiurus parvus</i>	Palm Swift	-	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	1	R
ALCEDINIDAE															
<i>Ceryle rudis</i>	Lesser Pied Kingfisher	+	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Common Kingfisher	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Storkbilled Kingfisher	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Halcyon smyrnensis</i>	Whitebreasted Kingfisher	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Halcyon pileata</i>	Blackcapped Kingfisher	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	1	WV
MEROPIDAE															
<i>Merops leschenaulti</i>	Chestnutheaded Bee-Eater	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Merops orientalis</i>	Green Bee-Eater	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
CORACIIDAE															
<i>Coracias benghalensis</i>	Indian Roller	+	+	+	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
UPUPIDAE															
<i>Upupa epops</i>	Hoopoe	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	1	SV
BUCEROTIDAE															
<i>Tockus griseus</i>	Malabar Grey Hornbill	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	+	1	Am
<i>Buceros bicornis</i>	Great Pied Hornbill	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Abundance rating	Migratory status
CAPITONIDAE															
<i>Megalaima zeylanica</i>	Large Green Barbet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	3	R
<i>Megalaima viridis</i>	Small Green Barbet	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Crimsonbreasted Barbet or Coppermith	+	+	+	-	-	-	+	+	-	-	-	+	1	R
PICIDAE															
<i>Dinopium benghalense</i>	Lesser Goldenback- ed Woodpecker	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Dinopium javanense</i>	Indian Golden- backed Three-toed Woodpecker	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	-	+	+	+	-	1	Am
PITTIDAE															
<i>Pitta brachyura</i>	Indian Pitta	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	1	WV
<i>Mirafra javanica</i>	Singing Bush Lark	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Mirafra erythroptera</i>	Redwinged Bush Lark	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
HIRUNDINIDAE															
<i>Hirundo daurica</i>	Striated or Red- rumped Swallow	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
<i>Delichon urbica</i>	House Martin	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	UK
LANIIDAE															
<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Grey Shrike	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	1	Am
<i>Lanius vittatus</i>	Baybacked Shrike	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	Am
<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Brown Shrike	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	2	R
ORIOIDAE															
<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>	Golden Oriole	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	1	Am
DICURIDAE															
<i>Dicurus adsimilis</i>	Black Drongo or King-Crow	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+		
<i>Dicurus leucophaeus</i>	Grey or Ashy Drongo	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	Am
<i>Dicurus caeruleus</i>	Whitebellied Drongo	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	+	1	Am

BIRDS ON MUNDANTHURAI PLATEAU, TAMIL NADU

TABLE 1 (contd.)

Family and scientific name	Common English name	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	Abundance rating	Migratory status
ARTAMIDAE															
<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	Ashy Swallow-Shrike	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
STURNIDAE															
<i>Sturnus malabaricus</i>	Greyheaded Myna	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	1	WV
<i>Sturnus pagodarum</i>	Blackheaded or Brahminy Myna	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	WV
<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	3	R
CORVIDAE															
<i>Dendrocitta vagabunda</i>	Indian Tree Pie	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	UK
<i>Corvus splendens</i>	House Crow	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	3	Am
<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Jungle Crow	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	3	R
CAMPEPHAGIDAE															
<i>Tephrodornis pondicerianus</i>	Common Wood Shrike	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	Large Cuckoo Shrike	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Am
Coracina melanoptera	Blackheaded Cuckoo Shrike	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	-	-	+	+	+	1	WV
<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>	Scarlet Minivet	+	-	+	-	-	+	-	-	+	+	-	+	1	Am
<i>Pericrocotus cinnamomeus</i>	Small Minivet	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
IRENIDAE															
<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Common Iora	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>	Goldmantled Chloropsis or Leaf Bird	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
PYCNONOTIDAE															
<i>Pycnonotus melanicterus gularis</i>	Rubythroated Yellow Bulbul	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Pycnonotus jocosus</i>	Redwhiskered Bulbul	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	1	R
<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Redvented Bulbul	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	3	R
<i>Pycnonotus luteolus</i>	Whitebrowed Bulbul	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	2	R
<i>Hypsipetes indicus</i>	Yellowbrowed Bulbul	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	1	Am